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AVIATION

The Oldest American Aeronautical Magazine



SPECIAL FEATURES

THE *Distributor* ... WHO HE IS ... WHY HE IS
... AND WHAT HE DOES

THE *Continental* A-70

Fourth Annual ENGINEERING RESEARCH

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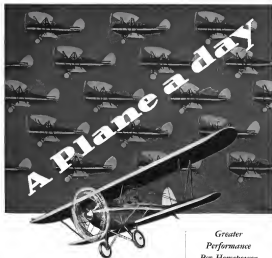
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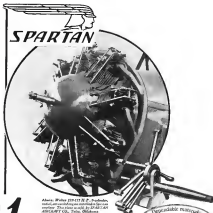
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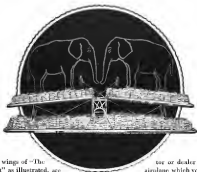
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THE OLDEST AMERICAN AERONAUTICAL MAGAZINE

May 25, 1929

Volume 1, Number 1



The New Era

VISITORS at the N.A.C.A. Conference at Langley Field were privileged to see the first public demonstration in the United States of two developments which are destined to have an important importance on the future of aeronautics.

The heavy fuel engine, both on account of its greater fuel economy and its lesser fire risk, has been the goal of much endeavor, but it was fairly protected that its practical use is almost as well many years away. The Packard Diesel engine which was shown last flown in Langley had successfully made the six hundred mile trip from Detroit, and although no details were given as to its characteristics, it can be stated that the long hoped for era of the heavy oil airplane engine is comparatively close at hand.

Because the autogyro has been under development in Europe for many years it was perhaps difficult to appreciate the demonstration which Harold Guggenheim gave at Langley Field. Whether or not the autogyro is the plane of the future can perhaps be questioned but there is no doubt that it has certain performance characteristics for which we have all been hoping. It will fly level at thirty miles per hour it will descend almost vertically and can stop with practically no run on the ground, and, equally important, it can not be stalled in the air. These characteristics are of such importance especially to amateur fliers, that they will not be denied. The autogyro has set standards of performance which airplane manufacturers will have to equal or else they will be superseded. These who called Langley Field not far in the past with the fact that real developments of the utmost importance have reached the stage where their practical application during the next few years is almost certain.



Wind Cones

ONE OF the first things that a flier looks for when drifting over an unfamiliar airport, is the wind cone, and once times out of ten he has difficulty in finding it. The usual trouble is not in the location of

the wind cone cone is as sure, but in the fact that it has become a sooty gray and is hard to distinguish from the roof or ground over which it is located. A flier who is looking for a wind cone is not looking where he is going, neither is he getting into a pleasant frame of mind. A little soap and water would be a great help.



Frozen Capital

ONE HAS but to visit a few of the present day airplane factories to become convinced that the problem of economic airplane production is still a long way from a satisfactory solution. It is, of course, admitted that the ever increasing selling market makes possible a certain amount of progress toward the ideal situation in any manufacturing industry, that of massed production and sales. However, at present the demand does not exceed the supply to any perceptible degree, and therefore it behooves the airplane manufacturer to "look before he leaps." In other words, equip his factory in such a way that future production demands will not necessitate all of that expenditure to the scrap heap.

It has often been stated that the automotive industry is an ideal pattern to be followed in the aeronautical industry. Perhaps so in most places, but from the standpoint of production rather than in being a matter of applying automotive production methods to the airplane, it is a matter of applying airplane production methods to the airplane. And the question is—what are airplane production methods? At present, no one is a person to say, for no one knows what will be the exact uses of the airplane ten or fifteen years hence. Consequently the aeronautical industry is facing its way along and building up a solid foundation for future endeavor and development. Therefore, although the expenditure of great sums of money, for all kinds of factory equipment to handle present day production may suggest progress, in a certain sense the wholesale expenditure of money for equipment is not economic progress for the near future may see changes in airplane production methods that will cause large sums of frozen capital to be tied up in obsolete airplane factory equipment.

THE Distributor ... WHO HE IS ... WHY HE IS ... AND WHAT HE DOES

By R. SIDNEY BOWEN, JR.



THE DISTRIBUTOR in the aircraft industry, in any other industry which enters to the retail buying public, is the connecting link between the manufacturer and his retail sales outlet. Theoretically the distributor serves as a sort of kind general for the manufacturer in that he protects and fosters the interests of the latter throughout a specific territory. In practice, however, he is or he should be, an independent party who has entered into a business contract with the manufacturer to handle the distribution of his products among that manufacturer's retail sales outlets—the dealers.

The reason for the existence of the distributor is primarily because of the fact that the manufacturer must, of necessity, devote the major part of his effort to the packaging of his product. In so doing, it tends to assume that he can not handle the many petty details that come into the national merchandising of that product. It is admitted that at present there are several airplane manufacturers in this country who are doing this very thing, each according to reports, with a fair amount of success. However, as time goes on the airplane market will increase to a size where the handling of all sales by the manufacturer will be in a form of "playing balls each toward the middle." A manufacturer can not possibly hope to defeat competition if he stresses to handle both the manufacturing of his product and the conducting of a national market. Realizing this, the progressive manufacturer attracts individuals, or companies to carry out his merchandising plans in designated parts of the country. These parties are called distributors, and they log from the manufacturer in quantity lots, at certain discounts off list price, for its distribution to the dealers, or in other words, the actual retail sales outlets.

Because of the use of his territory and the use of the personal method that comes as that territory, it is impossible for the distributor to obtain the maximum amount of retail sales in that territory without the assistance of third parties. These third parties are, of course,

In keeping with the steadily increasing airplane sales volume in this country, manufacturers are now striving toward the establishment of their own individual national sales organization. The important part that the distributor plays in such an organization is dealt with in detail in this article

Who He Is—Why He Is—and What He Does.

the dealers and incidentally the actual contacts with the buying public.

The selection of his dealers is perhaps the most difficult part of the distributor's job. Not far from the standpoint of finding dealers, but different from the standpoint of selecting or developing good ones. As progressive the dealers so progresses the distributor. Therefore it is up to the distributor to make few mistakes in the selection of his dealers, and to extend to them 100 per cent cooperation in all things pertaining to merchandising and servicing air-

ing to the business of planes.

One of the first things of which the keen distributor makers note, is that the prospective dealer is financially sound enough to carry on a business alone, he has no "clouded a disconnection." There have been cases of where a man set himself up as a dealer and then when he had obtained a demonstrator at a reduction off list price he forthwith went out of business. To off set such actions, it is now the policy among distributors to charge list price for the first demonstrator purchased by the dealer.

IT STANDS TO REASON that the past business experience of the dealer must be taken into account in the distributor when making his selection. If a prospective dealer has had experience as an automotive dealer, it is altogether probable that he could very readily adapt himself to the aeronautical industry. And, of course, if the applicant for a dealership is a former pilot or aviator of the aeronautical industry his knowledge of the game would make him an even more promising prospect.

Another important point in the appraising of a dealer is the making of the amount to be deposited with the

distributor by the dealer as "evidence of good faith" as it were. The use of that amount seems to vary with different distributors throughout the country, and ranges from three to four figures. However, in determining that amount the distributor should bear in mind that the dealer is in business to make a living. To demand a major part of the dealer's working capital as standing evidence of good faith is not helping him, but hindering him in getting a good start. The deposit referred to is of course not regarded as deposits of planes or order.

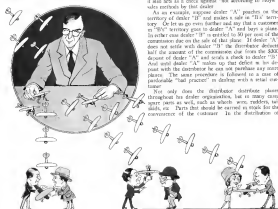
Whether dealer territories are to be regarded as "open" or "closed" is another matter which is up to the distributor to decide. There are several opinions that

one hears throughout the industry regarding the advantages and disadvantages of open or closed territories, and a few of them will be presented a bit later on. At this point perhaps the policies of a certain distributor who has closed dealer territories may be of interest and value.

THIS distributor requires that each dealer, upon accepting contract, deposit with him the sum of \$500 (in addition to deposits of planes ordered) upon which the distributor agrees to pay interest at the rate of six per cent per annum. Not only does the deposit of \$500 serve as evidence of good faith on the part of the dealer, but it also acts as a check against "not according to Boyle" sales methods by that dealer.

As an example, suppose dealer "A" purchases on the territory of dealer "B" and makes a sale in "B's" territory. Or let us go even further and say that a customer in "B's" territory goes to dealer "A" and buys a plane. In either case dealer "B" is entitled to 50 per cent of the commission due on the sale of that plane. If dealer "A" does not settle with dealer "B" the distributor deducts half the amount of the commission due from the \$500 deposit of dealer "A" and sends a check to dealer "B." And until dealer "A" makes up that deficit he has deposit with the distributor he can not purchase any more planes. The same procedure is followed in a case of questionable "bad practice" in dealing with a retail customer.

Not only does the distributor distribute planes throughout his dealer organization, but in many cases spare parts as well, such as wheels, tires, radars, tail wheels, etc. Parts that should be carried in stock for the convenience of the customer. In the distribution of



everything, from a bolt to an assembled plane, the distributor should take care not to over-stock the dealer. This can be accomplished by analyzing the dealer's territory and helping him to decide just how much equipment he can dispose of in that territory. And in addition to helping the dealer "size up" his territory, to keep contacting him and seeing to it that the dealer does not let



A Wright "Cub" model powered biplane.

down on the job. Just at present there exists a tendency to do that. One cause being that aerial service work offers heavier returns. The wise distributor will encourage his dealers to take up aerial service work, and if possible establish a flying school, because of the added revenue obtainable. Yet on the other hand he will preach the advantages of looking up these "outside" activities with the selling of planes.

As a matter of fact, many distributors are now conducting flying schools themselves. But, as the manufacturers have been forced to give up similar practices and are referring applicants to their distributors, so will the distributors eventually be forced to abandon such work and pass it on to their dealers. The industry is young yet, in fact, has not seemed to scratch the surface of its manufacturing problems. However, little by little, the distributors are weaving into line and becoming regular distributors and not combined distributor-dealers. Until recently it was necessary for the so-called distributor to dabble in everything aeronautical in order to make a living. But it won't be long now!

Returning for the moment to the subject of open or closed dealer territories, it seems to be the consensus of opinion that closed territories are better than open



A three-seater "Cub" model biplane.

territories. It is felt that a greater number of sales can be made in a closed territory because of the fact that the dealer can devote his entire attention, undivided and uninterrupted, to potential prospects within a definite area. If he is compelled to combat competition right in his own front yard, it is believed that he will rush

hither and thither throughout the territory to pick up the "quick sales" before the other chap, instead of going after quantity sales in a steady and progressive way. To the majority, open territories are not as good as closed territories in that they do not permit efficient sales development, and in addition they do not permit the unequal offer of the plane to continue to contact the customer as he should be contacted three after. And the result is that additional and repeat sales are often lost, and the dealer cannot figure out future territory possibilities as accurately as he should be able to figure them out after a year's activity. In other words, open territories invite hit-or-miss selling instead of steadily increasing sales value.

Those who do favor open territories state that a closed territory tends to cause the dealer to sit back and make the customers come to him, in view of the fact that he is the sole representative of a certain product in that territory. They feel that that is particularly true in the case of servicing. The dealer is the only one who handles genuine parts in that territory and so the plane owner must come to him. If he gets a new plane elsewhere the dealer gets credit for it anyway, so why doesn't one's self in dig up business that is bound to come his way? At least that is the way the open territory converts regard the subject.

However, if the territories are open, it is felt that the dealer will be caused to handle after business else he will run out on his livelihood and eventually be lost out of business. Sales competition, in the opinion of open territory converts, is what makes for greater sales volume.

There may be considerable truth in what the converts of open territories consider an correct merchandising procedure. It is true that open territories have been operated successfully in other industries. Yet on the other hand, it is possible for a wide awake distributor



A three-seater "Cub" model biplane.

to prevent or eliminate dealer procrastination in a closed territory. This can be accomplished by a distributor competing with his dealers.

At first glance that may appear to be open territory sales procedure, but when one considers for the moment the way in which the distributor competes, it proves to be a horse of another hue.

Whether a distributor divides his selling area into closed dealer territories, or whether he permits "open areas" of his own accord, he will himself do a certain amount of retail selling within his own immediate vicinity. To avoid a dealer making his own establishment would be just as much sales effort overlapping and customer contact repetition. And as a matter of fact, it is a good thing for the distributor to sell retail in his own locality, if for no other reason than the fact that he "gets the picture" as the dealers get it. In other

words, by his own retail selling experience he is better able to understand and assist his dealers in the solution of their own problems.

Proceeding with that retail selling experience the distributor can better gauge the market of each of his dealers, and set a reasonable sales total for each dealer. Then if the distributor finds that certain dealer is falling below the amount of business obtainable from his territory the distributor can send his own man in there to sell that market, and incidentally not credit the dealer for one single unit of business that the distributor obtains.

The results of such methods have a most telling effect upon the dealer in question. In the first place, the distributor proves to the dealer that the business does exist. Secondly, there is no gain that much money in commissions that the dealer loses. And third, it is more or less of a warning to the dealer that if he (the dealer) does not speed up his activities and produce more business the distributor will cancel their contract and appoint some one else. Of course, the distributor is in a position to award a dealer contract at any time, if the dealer does not live up to the terms of an agreement. And in flagrant cases of deliberate procrastination and falling down on the job by the dealer, it is sometimes best to break off business relations without any argument.



A three-seater "Cub" model biplane.

However, a certain amount of procrastination is a common evil, and the distributor should consider all sales of the case before taking such drastic action as that mentioned above. Often a little poking around at the dealer, or a temporary distributor "invasion" into the dealer's territory, will bring about the desired results. In short, distributor competition with dealer does pay, and it is not the same as open territory sales procedure.

To maintain a working check on dealers and to contact them as they should be contacted, it is necessary for the distributor to have at least one man (preferably a pilot) "patrolling" the entire territory. The size of the distributor's territory and the number of dealers within that territory himself determine the number of acreage over the distributor must "patrol." These men, or that man (it may be the distributor himself) pay visits to each dealer at regular intervals and while there render any assistance needed. Such assistance may be the establishing of an inventory system, or the closing of a sale with an "indefinite" customer or the placing of an ad in a local advertising company, etc. The duties of the distributor's outside man are twofold, but it is through their reports that the distributor is able to "feel the pulse" of his territory. And being that pulse is very necessary to the distributor for it cannot not be forgotten that while the dealer is responsible to the distributor, the distributor is also responsible to

the manufacturer. What is more for the gross is more for the dealer, as it were.

In addition to personal contact between the distributor a representation and the dealer, it is also beneficial to maintain written contact as well. This can be in the form of weekly sales letters containing information regarding general territory activities, special selling campaigns, booster campaigns, personal news, and business tips, etc. On it can be indicated by the pub-



An aircraft on a runway.

lishing of a definite house organ by the distributor. The manufacturer usually publishes a house organ, but it has proved beneficial for the distributors to publish their own individual house organ. These are much more personal and have a more direct appeal to the parties for whom they are published.

Although an auction has been made of a distributor handling more than one airplane account, or in other words representing more than one manufacturer, it is not to be believed that such practice is not in vogue at the present writing. Thus far, few distributors have been able to make a worthwhile living out of handling just one manufacturer's product, and as a result have been handling more than one non-competitive account. However, airplane manufacturers are now coming out with complete lines of models to thoroughly cover a certain type of market, and it will not be long before a distributor will be compelled by the manufacturer to represent more than one company. As a matter of fact, a few manufacturers already are granting upon individual distributor representation. Competition in the airplane industry is becoming so keen that concentrated sales effort is absolutely necessary and a single flying of similar accounts does not permit 100 per cent concentrated sales effort. Of course it is possible for a distributor to handle "outside lines" such as sport equipment, etc. put in an extensive distributor handles radio or extensive accessory accounts.

It is 100 per cent sales effort that appeals success for the distributor. And by this we mean 100 per cent cooperation with the dealer, by allowing them every opportunity to make sales, by giving them a good break on discounts, by helping them solve their individual problems, by keeping creditworthy after them for their own sales, and by treating the dealers as the distributor desires to be treated by the manufacturer.

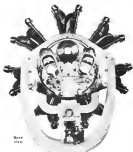
— This is the second of a series of airplane merchandising articles. The third will appear in an early issue of AVIATION.

THE Continental A-70

Seven Cylinder Radial
Air Cooled Engine
Develops 160 Hp.
at 2,000 R.P.M.



Front view



Rear view

CONTINENTAL MOTORS Corporation, of Elstern, for many years leader of power plant in the automobile, truck, marine, and industrial air fields, recently re-entered the aircraft industry with a new and interesting series of airplane engines, the first of which series was displayed at the second annual All-American Aircraft Show.

An interesting fact in connection with the model shown at the Show—a seven-cylinder radial air cooled engine, developing 150 hp. at 1,850 r.p.m.—is that this model will be made available later with geared drive, and built-in centrifugal supercharger.

Although the seven-cylinder engine, minutely known as the A-70, has been announced as the first of a series, no information concerning others of the series is available at this time.

The present 150 hp. type was developed under the direction of Robert Insley, head of the company's experimental department, who formerly was assistant chief of the Power Plant Section, United States Army Air Corps, at McCook Field, Dayton, O. It affords a 5 to 1 compression ratio, has a bore and stroke of 4 1/2 in. and a total piston displacement of 544 cu. in.

Cylinders of the A-70 are built up with heat treated aluminum alloy heads screwed and shrunk to forged steel barrels, the bars being ground to very close tolerances. Each cylinder is secured to the crankcase with six nuts and pins. Valve motor booms are not integral with the cylinder head, the covers, of cast aluminum, being secured by means of nuts and pins. Both the "shrink fit" valve seats and the inserts for spark plug openings are of aluminum bronze.

Heat treated aluminum alloy is used in constructing the crankcase, the cast being split on the outer line of the cylinders. The front and main roller bearings and the ball thrust bearing are carried in the front half of the crankcase, while the rear ball carries the rear main roller bearing and contains the cast-in reduction mainshaft. Cast follower guides and the connecting houses also are housed

in the rear portion of the crankcase. A maximum of crankshaft rigidity is provided for by leaving ample space between the front and rear roller bearing. A breather is located on the front half of the crankcase. Both main roller bearings are mounted in bronze liners and the thrust bearing is a steel runner.

The full steel plain cylindrical type pistons are heat treated aluminum alloy castings. The skirts are unusually long, the lands being thick to insure bearing and scuffing. Piston pins are secured in bosses by wire snap rings. Bolts are provided at the vicinity of the piston bosses to avoid the possibility of scoring. The pistons use four rings, three located above and one below the pin

Heat treated chrome vanadium steel is used in the connecting rod assembly, the one piece master and articulated rods being of "H" section, and completely casted. All link and pinion pin bearings are of bronze. The master rod crank pin is a steel link, ball-shouldered bushing. Case-hardened link pins are secured in place by locking pins.

The crankshaft is constructed of two, heat treated, chrome nickel forgings, completely sandcast with counterweights riveted on. The shaft is parted at the rear flange, where the crank pin is secured by a clamping bolt. The shaft is drilled throughout for lightness and played at the rear section and crank pin to form a passage for oil to crank pin and link pin joints. Timing and starting gears are driven by a splined gear at the center of the rear portion of the shaft. Either S.A.E. No. 2 taper, or S.A.E. No. 20 spline propeller mountings can be supplied.

Exhaust valves are of the hollow stem, tulip type made of C.N.S. alloy. Intake valves are solid-stem forgings made of steel. Two straight bellows springs are used on each valve. Heat treated and forged chrome vanadium steel is used in the rocker arms, which are mounted on ball bearings. The valve tappet dimensions are adjustable at the front and at the rocker. Push rods are of chromalloy tubing with hardened steel ends, and are encased in light steel protecting tubes. The cam followers are of oil hardened chrome vanadium steel with case hardened intake pins and push rod cups. A special aluminum alloy bearing metal is used in constructing the cam follower guides. The cam ring and gear are of

case hardened chrome vanadium steel mounted to a forged duralumin hub, the ring assembly being mounted on a bronze bearing and driven from the crankshaft timing gear by an intermediate gear mounted on a steel shaft secured in the gear case.

The crankshaft starter gear is mounted on splines in the center of the rear half of the crankshaft. The starter shaft gear is of equal size and meshes with the crankshaft starter gear above the crankshaft. Two magnetos, one on either side of the crankshaft, are fitted with tapered gears, which mesh directly with the crankshaft starter gear. The crankshaft timing gear, which drives the two generator and pump shafts, is mounted on the crankshaft and is, itself, driven by the starter gear through a freely swiveling shaft held in engagement by a screw at the end of the crankshaft. The generator shaft lies below the crankshaft and is driven by the cam intermediate gear. The pump shaft, which drives the oil pressure and scavenging pumps and tachometer drive at one end and the fuel pump at the other, is located transversely at the rear of the cam intermediate gear and is driven by helical gears from the generator shaft.

ALL accessory drive shafts are forged integral with three gears and run in glass bearings under full oil pressure, except the oil pump shaft, which is mounted on ball bearings. Except for the fuel pump gear, these gears are of the double spur tooth type both of oil hardened chrome vanadium steel.

The scrudded disks, mentioned previously, make for simple and accurate timing adjustments. By merely loosening the screw at the rear end of the crankshaft the disks may be disengaged, which permits adjustment of the timing gears with reference to the crankshaft.

A standard S.A.E. governor mechanism is provided to accommodate any approved standard unit. S.A.E. standards are also followed on the starter mounting. The starter shaft is equipped with both the three-pin clutch and the standard starter spline to accommodate any type of starter. Cylinder heads are tapped for the installation of Heywood injection starter designs.

Fuel mixture is provided by a single-barrel Stromberg carburetor and controlled by the "house shoe" intake manifold in the crankcase by a double intake pipe. A

large hot spot area at the junction of the intake pipe into makes for complete vaporization. A valve opened from the manifold controls the flow of heat to the hot spot. An exhaust ring nose cooling (or NACA cooling with integral exhaust rings) and radio shielding can be provided if required. A fuel pump can be mounted on an S.A.E. standard flange and provided with a coupling to the pump cross shaft.

The oil pressure and scavenging pumps are built into a single unit located at one of the cross shafts, near the bottom of the gear case. All accessory drive bearings, crank pin and link pin bearings are lubricated by pressure. A spring system lubricates the other parts.

Secondly, magnesium and 36 G. spark plugs are standard on the engine. Among the notable features of the Continental engine is the fact that it may be set in the mounting rig without removing any accessory, piping or wiring, except, of course, those pipes or wires leading from the engine to the airplane propeller.

Weight of the engine is 400 lb. with carburetor and magneto, but without starter, generator, exhaust pipes or air intake heater.

Specifications supplied by Mr. Insley are as follows.

Designation	A-70
Cooling system	air
Cylinder arrangement	radial
No. of cylinders	seven
No. of strokes per cycle	four
Propeller drive	direct (geared model later)
Rated hp. and r.p.m. at sea level	150 hp. at 2,000 r.p.m.
Weight dry, without hub or scrudder	400 lb.
Weight per unit horsepower	3.5 lb.
Bore and stroke (in.)	4 1/2 x 4 1/2
Compression ratio	5 to 1
B.M.E.P.	116.6 lb. per sq. in.
Displacement (cc in.)	544
Diameter of mounting rig	20 in.
Overall diameter	44 1/2 in.

THE *Inspection* Section OF THE AERONAUTICS BRANCH

By DONALD E. KEYHOE

THE GAME of hide and seek between Department of Commerce aeronautical inspectors and certain pilots and plane owners ended on March 1, when the old letters of authority went into the discard. New, letters of authority are issued only after examination of applicants, and merely to serve until the license card is made out and forwarded.

But this does not mean that licensing trouble ended on that day. I have some ample evidence of that—both in and out of Washington. I was sitting in the office of Gilbert Bading, chief of the Licensing Section of the Branch, when a long distance call came for him.

Bading listened for a moment and then glanced at a telegram which had just come in a minute before. The voice at the other end of the line continued to be raised as a furious complaint and it was distinctly audible several feet from the phone.

"Your inspector grounded me for no reason at all," the anxious speaker declaimed hoarsely. "He's simply abusive—one of those smart-alecks trying to stir up trouble!"

Bading picked up the telephone.

"The inspector says you have a badly leaking gas tank, a fire menace. Also that you haven't any pilot's license, though you are flying a licensed plane!"

The agitated pilot seemed taken aback that Bading had any information as to the case. He plainly thought he had needed headquarters first.

"Why, that isn't anything at all," he retorted after a pause. "Anyway, I can fix it, but he won't let me take-off without a license. I've got one but I left it in New York. Had to start in a hurry."

"The inspector hasn't any way of knowing whether you have one," explained Bading. "He wired in to find out, intending to let you go on if you did have one. I've had it looked up and I see you have one, but you ought to carry it. Too many people without licenses tell me that."

The inspector isn't hostile, he's merely carrying out his orders. Now if you'll fix that leak and two or three other things that the inspector says are wrong with the plane, we'll let you go ahead without the license till you get back to New York."

This certainly was a compromise, but the man at the other end only answered grudgingly as he hung up. This is only one of the many incidents that make up

the routine of the Inspection Section. Two things are plain after listening to both sides of several cases. All pilots and owners are out to cooperate with the Department in the effort to insure safety and thus preserve the industry. And second, the life of an inspector is no bed of roses.

The last is apparent almost at once. Almost every one of the present inspectors has been through some narrow escapes while trying out applicants for licenses. One inspector was holed in a tree by an applicant when the engine cut out; another had a woman applicant bring a plate in upside down. Several have been put in power spins close the ground, and others have been stalled at dangerously low altitudes, usually with the applicant frozen onto the stick. One inspector was almost buried out when an applicant did a sloppy half roll where told to make a 60 deg. turn.

But this is all in a day's work—they expect that when they sign up with the Department. But when the very ones who pull such tricks complain the loudest, asserting they are victims of spite and persecution—that is where inspection comes. One of the first trouble cases found exaggerated tales. Every one is the person knows that there is a quite common tendency to "loose" licenses in the air. If all the ones who claim \$5000 loss were to be lined up together, they would reach from—well, I'm not sure, but there would be enough to supply a carrier for each beach light around the Transcontinental Route—and then some. (And a few of these "accs" would be a lot better off if they were put down as caretakers and so would the industry.)

THERE MAY BE AN exaggeration in itself, but there are omissions on the Department's records where names have been caught and how by two or more. One "harmless" person in his community for a World War "acc" and a Department of Commerce transporter turned up and the "acc" decided not to take his test for a license. Later, he crashed up someone's plane on what was said and is believed by many to have been his first solo.

"We have to go by the flying itself," Bading explained in regard to this. "Of course, the applicant must have the time required by the Regulations, but if a man claims 250 hr. and he flies like one with 50 hr., he gets a 50-hr. license. We do not hand out the trans-

port license until we are sure the man deserves it. So at doesn't do them any good to misstate their flying time."

"At first, there were a lot of kids about 'hood-led' inspectors when applicants didn't get by," Bading went on. "And those guys may have been such cases. But we emphasis on every inspector now that we have enough trouble without looking for it, and so we emphasize some. We tell them to try to help, not hinder the cause. No inspector lasts long with the Department if he goes against those directions."

"And the industry seems to appreciate it, in general. These inspectors are veterans—Army and Navy pilots, ex-chartermen, the ones who know the game and are in sympathy with the pilots. The industry respects them and now there are very few complaints about hostility. Whenever there are, they invariably turn out to be attempts to cover up some fault on the other side. Ordinarily, the trouble-makers try to get around the Regulations by some trick rather than protest against the inspector's decision."

"One can't trust to take a flight test for another; but when the inspector takes a second look and said:

"You're Juan Juan, are you?" The pilot applicant left in a hurry.

"Until March 1, pilots and owners who didn't care to be tested or have a plane inspected, used to run away, but now they're awakes if they haven't licenses or letters of authority after examinations."

THE TRANSFERRED system has helped applicants greatly, as well as the Department, Bading explained. Applicants now receive ratings from those cities where inspectors can be found at almost any week-day in a month. In this way, the applicants can arrange their affairs so that they will have to travel the shortest distance, if any, and lose least time in taking examinations and tests.

In carrying out these measures, inspectors claim work overtime, fighting-schedule all day at the airport and then gathering all the applicants at a central spot to the evening for the written tests. This results in three times as many finished cases as would be the situation if such out were completed singly. There are many instances where inspectors have put 12 to 20 men through flight tests in a day, examined them at night, graded the papers, and signed letters of authority for those passing this time, so that they could go on in the morning. It is to be expected without waiting for the actual license card from Washington.

In testing applicants, full consideration is given to the man in whom a license means "bread and butter." This is impressed on inspectors, though most are old barnstormers and would have it to be quite wrong. Of course, an inspector cannot re-examine a pilot within the 90-day period, but he can see that the applicant is skilled but temporarily "rusty" he can contrive the examination after a short interval, while he tries out other applicants. This is extremely fair, for having a pilot has a position waiting, depends on his getting a license. A little specific on the maneuvers in which he is rusty will enable him to gain without waiting for the 90 days to pass. Of course, this can be done only in cases where the inspector knows the applicant has had the necessary experience to become satisfactory with this little break-in.

By this, it is not meant that new men in the game—the ones with a few hours—don't show proper contin-

uation. An instance will show the contrary to be true. As chief inspector, Bading was one day testing applicants in a certain field. A young fellow asked to be given the limited commercial test. He did not own a plane but had an opportunity of extending his flying time at the field, providing he could get the limited commercial license, which would enable him to carry passengers for the company on rush days.

He was to take his test in one of the company's planes. But the chief pilot for the company wanted Bading to take the responsibility for the plane. Bading refused, but suggested that the test pilot check out the applicant to see if he was rusty or not, and then give him a few less for the test. After some hesitation the chief pilot agreed. But after a few minutes in the air the plane narrowly landed.

"No good," said the chief pilot abruptly, climbing out of the plane and walking off.

The applicant came over to Bading.

"He can't know whether I'm any good or not," he said earnestly. "Every time I want to turn or get out, he tries to land for you, he'd grab the controls. He never gives me a chance to show you."

Bading was impressed by the boy's evident anxiety and sense of responsibility. He talked with another local pilot and then decided for once to assume responsibility.

"I'll fly with you," he told the applicant.

They took off and in a short time the applicant showed he was quite capable and fully ready for a limited commercial license. When Bading came down he called over the test pilot and asked him to get into the plane. And here came the surprise—the chief pilot for the company proved to be a complete "washed"—he was nervous, too high-strung—and made it in the air. His transportation license was at once revoked.

The governor's pilot's license is carefully handled—extremely so. It is not issued until the applicant has a landing at least to a 10 hr. pilot may create a dangerous situation. If he has no plane with which to practice, he will soon be "broke" although he may have been perfectly all right when he took his test. He may then use his license to impress some inexperienced plane owner who does not understand the difference between "private" and "transport" on a license card. And disaster may be the result.

THERE IS ONE reason for counseling applicants of men who do not have a plane and have no way to get one for a flight test. Obviously it is best, both for the industry and the pilots, that licenses are not given out to those who fail to "keep their hands in." Not that it is possible to prevent this, but this is one point which inspectors are told to keep in mind, especially in regard to the private license.

Although licensing takes up most of the time of the inspectors, they have other duties. These are violations of the Regulations and Air Traffic Rules who must be followed and either warned, or reported to Washington in case of "repeaters" or flagrant violators. Inspectors also give special pilot ratings in bad cases, the reporting the details to Washington, where it is decided whether fines or revocation of licenses will be inflicted. Hardly ever is a first offender fined, unless he has committed some serious breach.

For a while, working with paid passengers was continued in spite of the Air Traffic Rules, but this is now on the decrease. One pilot after another being fined by

the Department for this, put up a sign at his airport: "Small Plane—\$200,000 spent—\$500 for the Department of Commerce, \$5 for the pilot."

Often, an inspector finds it difficult to catch up with some persistent violator. So a small part of the month is sometimes left open for "free licensing," wherein a guilty pilot or owner might easily think of the inspector's diary and be sure to stay in the opposite part of his district and a few jumps ahead.

Investigation of accidents is another duty assigned the Inspection Section. And here is where more than an ordinary amount of trouble comes. It is natural for pilots to try to cover up their own deficiencies, and if the pilot at fault is a "good loser" his brother fliers will suddenly have extremely faulty memories when questioned.

In one case a licensed pilot reported a crash with a licensed plane, giving all details of the crash, but told the inspector aspected something wrong. He did a little detective work on the safe and found to his surprise that the licensed pilot had been a long ways off when the plane crashed. It soon developed that an unlicensed pilot had been flying the plane, and knowing he was subject to a fine of \$500, he made some use of an agreement with the licensed pilot to take the blame.

IN CONNECTION with crashes a new and serious business has sprung up. Certain ascription hangs-on at the industry have been buying wrecked airplanes in order to get the license numbers and the manufacturer's name-plate. They then build up their stocks, often with no regard for anything but the appearance of safety and this peddle them to unsuspecting buyers, ordinarily one concern to the game.

Of course the Department will not license these planes, and it has to refuse to inspect them, for it has no way of knowing what lies under the fabric, or what kind of material is used in rebuilding. The buyer is wrong. There are a few cases in which crashes were not reported and the rebuilding covered defects not easily discernible. Now the inspectors have to be more on the lookout than ever. One of these "lying outfits" crashed on its first flight after rebuilding the wings folding up and a fatal crash following.

Some time ago an inspector was requested to license what appeared to be a brand new airplane of a standard type, for which an approved type certificate had been issued. Now it happened that an inspector had been assigned to the factory building, the particular type of plane, and had been given a block of airplanes for all planes built there. So this plane the inspector was asked to license should already have had a number. He checked up and found that the plane had never been written into books of sales of the factory in which it was supposed to have been built. From wing to tail-finish it was an uncracked, diagonally wired, construction of cheap materials, but finished so neatly like the real model that more than a casual glance was needed to detect it. The average newcomer to the industry would have bought a glider—for it was offered at a reduced price.

As a result of this inspectors are kept out wherever possible at all A. T. C. factories, at least those in large production. Blocks of numbers are kept there so that any new, unlicensed plane of that make, appearing elsewhere, will be immediate evidence of fraud. Eighty per cent of the output of licensed planes are licensed at the factories. These are permanent numbers, and the

usual cleanup caused by temporary numbers and later changes is thereby avoided.

FIELD INSPECTORS must be on the lookout not only for such "booby" planes, but inferior wings, control planes etc. a number of which have been manufactured secretly for several well-known (popular makes of aircraft). The prices are much less than the bona fide stock—and much less safe. Some other means, means to register a crash without reporting it to the Department, lately severe recovery parts, and sometimes get these inferior products without knowing it. Some, with no intention of flying in the rebuilt planes themselves, buy the poor stock, only aware of the danger. If the inspector knows of the crash he is on the watch for these low grade parts. Sometimes occurs again what they consider minor changes, rebuilding in good faith, but still with no intention of reporting the crash and perhaps waiting a short time for the inspector to arrive. There have been so many instances of this that inspectors now look over every plane they give periodic examinations, or those they inspect for other reasons, looking for difference in the grain of the fabric on the wings. Frequently they will note such a difference and will cut into the wing, finding a light breaks spot has been repaired incorrectly. In fact cases, the next or third strain, even a strong blow in the air, would have caused failure of the wing and probably a crash.

Factory licensing is reducing a great deal of this trouble. At first, factory inspectors were not received kindly, but after several manufacturers had been helped to improve their products they ceased to complain. Flight testing was another stumbling block. When planes were tested down strong objections were made. That is one case at least, the objection soon ceased. The inspectors insisted that the manufacturer's own test pilots fly the new plane and put it through the accepted maneuvers after the builder had been thought the test had been "fair."

The manufacturer's pilots took off for the test—and a few minutes later they were forced to "bel out" at top speed to save their lives when the plane refused to come out of a spin. Yet this was the plane which had been declared airworthy by its manufacturer, and ready to place on the market.

It would be an odd statement if the aviation industry were free from shams, experienced pilots and builders self responsible rate. But into any big and growing business it has its share, perhaps more now than ever before because of the tremendous popular appeal of flying.

As long as there are unscrupulous and careless men in the plane there must be an organization to hold them down as much as possible. The Inspection Section of the Department of Commerce is that organization. The inspectors are its watchdogs. If occasionally they happen to tread on the toes of an innocent individual in trying to catch a dozen offenders, remember that without these inspectors that same innocent individual would not have a proper. He'd be swamped by the crooks that would grow up.

And finally—the inspectors are getting pretty good at picking the right toes to step on!

This is the fourth of a series of six articles prepared by Mr. Evelyn Arding with the Aeronautical Branch, Department of Commerce. The first will appear in an early issue.—Ed

Fourth Annual ENGINEERING RESEARCH CONFERENCE

By LESLIE E. NEVILLE

EVERY SPRING for the past four years representatives of the aeronautical industry have visited Langley Field, Va., to see and hear of the work being done by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. Each year an increasing number have made the trip and on this year's visit, which took place May 14, the NACA was host to more than 300 about here as many representatives of commercial airplane manufacturers, accessory manufacturers, bankers and reporters this attended last year.

Since last year's visit comparatively few large additions have been made to the equipment. During the coming year it is planned to start construction on a water tunnel to test models of submarines and flying boat hulls, and possibly a wind tunnel at least 200 ft. in diameter will be laid out. Much of the work which had been outlined at the previous year's conference had been completed, but certain fundamental research problems such as the distribution of pressure on airplanes during various maneuvers was still being systematically studied. On the whole it would seem as if the work of the past year had been more fruitful of results directly applicable to commercial aircraft than was the case in previous years. However, the NACA has been seriously handicapped this year due to the fact that several of its personnel have left the field of research in order to go with various manufacturers.

The most important work which was done during the year was that on the NACA low drag cooling for radial engines. This work which was described in NACA Technical Reports Nos. 113 and 311 and in the May 17, 1928 and Feb. 10, 1929, issues of AVIATION, is now completed and the 30 ft. wind tunnel is now being

used for the testing of propellers at such speeds that the velocity of their tip exceeds that of sound.

The visitors were shown a Curtiss D12 engine turning a test propeller at a speed of 2,000 r.p.m. in the large tunnel. As soon as the tip reached a speed as great as 900 ft. per sec. the noise became terrific. Diagrams were posted to indicate to the spectators the behavior of the efficiency curve for tip speeds in the range of interest. When the tests are completed it is planned to use the power tunnel to test the effect of the interference of various parts of the plane with each other.

RESearch in the Langley Field laboratories falls into two general groups, that of the aerodynamic and power plant divisions. Results accomplished during the past year and the tentative program for the future were outlined during the morning sessions by Elmer W. Miller, chief of the aerodynamics branch, and Carlisle Kempner, chief of the power plant branch. The session was presided by Dr. Joseph S. Ames, chairman of the NACA, and conducted by Rivers R. Bell, engineer in charge of the Langley Field laboratories.

In the aerodynamic division, as outlined by Mr. Miller, one of the important studies is the determination of pressure distribution on the various parts of an airplane under conditions resembling those which occur in flight. A specially designed multiple manometer is used in this work and provides a permanent record of the pressure at a large number of points on the surface of the airplane. This research has been extended to include the investigation as well as the wings and tail of a 40-ft. person plane. This is now under way. Later the work is to be extended further to the investigation of Douglas planes. This work is being conducted by J. W. Cronley and Pilot Carroll and Dr. Ayer.

Tests also are under way to determine the water pressure distribution on a airplane that has been and that for



A group photograph of the representatives at the Langley Field Conference

it has been found that pressures are higher at low, and steep than at other points. A comparison of the action of oleo and rubber landing gear shock absorbers is also under way, making use of a special drop test rig.

The general problem of safety in low speed flight is being studied extensively in the atmosphere tunnel under the direction of Montgomery Knight. Present



Owen Wright (left) and W. P. Phillips (right) standing beside the 3 ft. tunnel.

distribution tests are now under way on some 40 types of engine cowlings, having various degrees of stagger, stagger-chord ratio and gap. In the tunnel studies are being made to determine the possibility of increasing efficiency through boundary layer control by the use of pressure and suction slots in various positions and of different widths.

It is an effort to determine which planes spin normally and which have a tendency to "flat" spin, experiments are being conducted to learn the effect of mass distribution on the spin. A refrigerated tunnel for ice formation studies also is in operation.

The variable density tunnel, which was destroyed by fire in 1927, has been rebuilt and a research program has been started. Preliminary tests indicate that there is less turbulence than in the former tunnel. The high speed tunnel, which is operated from the discharge of the variable density tunnel, and which provides air velocities greater than that of wind, is being used to determine pressure distribution on a propeller section. An automatic arrangement of manometer tubes is employed to obtain visible and photographic results in this work. Turbulence and cavitation also are being studied in water chutes and model apparatus in the same building. These experiments are directed by E. N. Jacobs and John Shack.

Preliminary tests in the variable density tunnel indicate that the tunnel will serve its purpose, which is the elimination of error by the use of full scale Reynolds number. One of the first investigations was the study of pressure distribution over the R.A.F. airfoil with Handley Page Skua.

In the 25 ft. Propeller Research Tunnel, under the direction of Donald Wood, investigations have been made of the effect of corrugation above and below the normal section of the wing. Tests also have been made to determine the most desirable position for the aileron with reference to wing and it was found that, on a number of combinations, the drag was lowest when the aileron was placed in the wing with uninterfered

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flow over the upper surface. Slipstream effect was not considered however in these tests and it is planned to extend the investigation to include this important factor.

The activities of the power plant section, as outlined by Mr. Karpner, consist mainly of the work on oil engine and supercharger development. This section also conducted the tests to determine the cooling characteristics of a radial engine with N.A.C.A. cowling.

A comparison of the Roots blower and turbo type superchargers in a DH-4 biplane was conducted but the results were not considered accurate as the Roots blower employed had excessive impeller and casing clearance.

THE GREAT photography apparatus which takes 25 consecutive pictures at the rate of 2,600 per second is being used to investigate the problem of separation, but the effect of air turbulence on spray penetration. Fuel spray distribution and air flow also are being studied. Effect of load and speed on engine performance has been studied and maximum cylinder pressure has been shown to be a factor in determining engine performance. A device to study supercharged engine valve timing also was shown to the visitors.

At the afternoon session an opportunity was afforded guests to suggest various research problems. A number of suggestions were made, most of them being along the lines of work already started. Among the suggestions made were: extension of the structural investigation to commercial types; measurements of total load and load distribution in multi-engine airplanes; extension of the



The Packard Model powered Sikorski biplane at Langley Field.

investigation on cowling and nacelle position to the biplane category; study of lateral stability below the stall; spin; comparison of data on propeller propellers, rowing of tandem engines, most efficient position of tractor and pusher propellers with reference to loading and trailing edge of wings, flat and curved tips, ball balance of flying loads, and aerodynamic interaction of the various parts of an airplane and development of a simplified formula for center of pressure determination. Speakers included E. P. Warner, Lester C. Milne, Sherman M. Fairchild, Ivan H. Briggs, H. C. Richards, L. M. Washburn, Temple Jeger and Harold P. Peters.

Following the conference, visitors witnessed the flights of the Pivotal Autogiro and a Stearman Detroiter machine powered with the new Packard Diesel engine. The Autogiro was piloted by Harold P. Peters, who is to produce this craft under license in this country. Captain E. M. Wadman and Walter Lane flew the Detroiter airplane on its first cross country flight from Detroit to Langley Field and during the demonstration at Langley

AVIATION

May 25, 1938



AIRPLANE DESCRIPTIONS



Parks Biplanes

TWO biplanes of the three plane, open type are now being produced by Parks Aircraft, Inc., Parks Airport, 52 Lewis, Mo. The planes are constructed in design and differ mainly in power plants. The P-1 model is powered by a Curtiss OX-5 engine remodeled by the Parks process and the T-2 model one is furnished with Wirthfield Pivo, Alaskan, Gracat or other radial engines.

Both planes have fuselages constructed of welded steel tubing and wooden wing structures. Fabric covering is used for fuselage and wings in both cases.

The Parks P-1 has an overall length of 24 ft. 1 in., an overall height of 9 ft. 4 in., an upper wing span of 31 ft. 8 in. and a lower wing span of 28 ft. 7 in. The weight of the plane empty is 1,135 lb., the useful load 725 lb., pay load 340 lb. and gross weight 1,840 lb. The



A side view of the Parks P-1 biplane.

craft has a high speed of 102 m.p.h., a landing speed of 34 m.p.h. and a cruising speed of 90 m.p.h. The rate of climb at an level is 350 ft. per sec. and the service ceiling 12,000 ft.

The Parks T-2 has an overall length of 23 ft. 6 in., an overall height of 9 ft. 2 in., an upper wing span of 30 ft. and lower wing span of 28 ft. 5 in. The weight empty is approximately 1,430 lb., useful load 570 lb., pay load 470 lb. and gross weight loaded 2,400 lb. The high speed is 122 m.p.h., cruising speed, 105 m.p.h., landing speed 36 m.p.h. The rate of climb at an level is 820 ft. per sec. and the service ceiling 14,500 ft. A modified automotive 2-A airfoil section is used in both planes. Adapters on both upper and lower wings of the P-1 are operated by direct push and pull controls, turning positive action in each. In the Parks P-2 the double ailerons are replaced by a single Frise type on the lower wing only. A landing gear of the standard bar type has been selected for the P-1 because of its lightness, ruggedness and ease of recovery for training operations. The P-2 has a conventional split type landing gear highly developed to ensure maximum strength and lightness. Aides are best treated to a brake strength of 150,000 lb. per sq. in. which gives ample strength. The tail also has been developed particularly to stand up in use on rough runways and rocky ground. It is also best treated to a brake strength of 150,000 lb. per sq. in. and is fitted with a cam out-gauge

and steel designed with a drop fin to retain ground looping. The tail end seat is fitted in such a manner that landing shocks on the fuselage are reduced to a minimum.

The radiator on the P-1 is placed out of the pilot's way beneath the fuselage. The engine mounting is exceptionally light and strong and is welded to the fuselage. All fuel and oil lines are connected in accordance with Army specifications. The fuel supply is collected by an element fuel gauge operated by a single dry cell.

Kinner American Eagle

HIGHLY satisfactory performance and maneuverability are attributed to the Kinner powered American Eagle biplane, manufactured by the American Eagle Aircraft Corporation, Fairfax Field, Kansas City, Mo. This craft is a three-place, open cockpit type, suitable for light aircraft, aerial work and commercial or sport aviation.

The Kinner powered American Eagle has an overall length of 25 ft. 1 in., a wing span of 36 ft. and a height of 8 ft. 4 in. The weight of the plane empty is 1,119.5 lb., the useful load 725 lb. and the gross weight 2,045 lb. The high speed is 105 m.p.h., and the cruising speed 95 m.p.h. The climb in the first minute is 900 ft. and the service ceiling, 14,000 ft.

The fuselage is constructed throughout of welded steel tubing. This material is also used in the tail end structures. An undercarriage of the split axle type is provided. The wings are constructed of airplane service steel, and in the case of the fuselage are covered with fabric. The area of the upper wing, including struts,



The Kinner powered American Eagle biplane.

is 160 sq. ft. and that of the lower wing including struts is 140 sq. ft. Wings are suited for navigation lights.

The seating arrangement is conventional, two persons being accommodated in the forward cockpit and one in the rear. Dual controls are provided. The instruments include altimeter, aneroid, and oil pressure and temperature gauges.

A fuel capacity of 42 gal. and an oil capacity of 5 gal. are provided, affording a cruising distance of 54 hr. The cruising range is about 500 mi.

Davis Monoplane

A WING of unusual design for a light plane is one of the features of the Davis Monoplane built by the Davis Aircraft Corporation, Richmond, Ind. This craft is a two-place tandem type, having as standard power plant, the LeRhond Sixty (52) radial air-cooled engine. The plane, however, is unusual for power plants up to 300 lb. in weight, and the engine mounting is standard for either the LeRhond 60 or the LeRhond 80 engines. Two aileron sections having different characteristics are employed in the design of the wing, which comprises two trends and a center section. A Clark "Y" profile is employed in the center section and in the wing roots. This section is merged into a Goettinger 837 for a portion of the semi-span at the tip struts and is again modified to a Clark "Y" section at the wing tips, which are tapered. Spars are of laminated spruce, box, and rib and are of the "V" type. The plane has a wing span of 30 ft. 6 in. an overall length of 18 ft. 6 in. and a height of 7 ft. 7 in. The weight of the craft empty is 770 lb., the pay load 320 lb. and the disposable load 540 lb., giving a gross weight loaded of 1,310 lb. The fuel tank is of conventional design,



A side profile view of the LeRhond powered Davis Monoplane showing the unusual wing design.

being built entirely of welded steel tubes and rigidly braced. Seats of the basket type, upholstered, are arranged in tandem in separate cockpits. A split axle type of landing gear, constructed entirely of chrome molybdenum steel, is placed well forward of the center of gravity of the plane to enhance the possibility of coming over in landing. The 26 by 4 in. wheels have a 6 ft. track.

Steel tail surfaces having tubular spars and edges with sheet steel ribs are employed. All joints are welded and the spars are reinforced where controls are attached. At the left of the pilot is the rear cockpit in the stabilizer adjustment control. This control provides a range of four degrees plus and two degrees minus. Fabric covering is used throughout. All metal members are wrapped before covering.

Controls are of the conventional stick and rudder bar type and are dual to the other cockpit, except for the plane. Controls in the front cockpit can be released, however, when the plane is not to be used in instruction work. Steel tube push-pull rods and bell cranks are used in the aileron and elevator controls. The rudder control employs flexible cables running direct from the rudder bar to the rudder without the use of pulleys.

A 25 gallon gasoline tank is built into the center section of the wing and feeds by gravity to the engine. The tank is constructed of welded sheet aluminum. An oil tank of 3 gal. capacity is located in front of the fuel tank just over the engine mounting. Sheet aluminum covering is employed for the engine compartment and for

the cockpit. The front cockpit is accessible through a door on the left side and by steps conveniently located. Steps are also provided for the rear cockpit. Both cockpits are upholstered in leather and plywood is used for flooring.

Seats of all instruments are placed on the rear instrument board. A consolidated unit panel containing an altimeter, tachometer, oil pressure gauge and oil temperature gauge is provided and a storage battery can be interposed as optional equipment. The front cockpit instrument board can be replaced by a duplicate of that in the rear cockpit if desired.

Stearman Coach

DESIGNED primarily to meet the demand for the bi-divided owner, the Stearman Coach is to be produced in the near future. In actual terms, the plane, which is powered by a Wright H-975, 300 hp. Nine Whirlwind engine, attains a high speed of 135 m.p.h. The cruising speed is 115 m.p.h. and the landing speed 42 m.p.h. A rate of climb (sea level) of 900 ft. per min. and a service ceiling of 16,000 ft. also have been obtained.

The Stearman Coach is a cabin biplane having the upper wing supported on struts above the fuselage and the intervening space enclosed in glass providing 360 deg. visibility in the horizontal plane. The craft has a weight empty of 2,565 lb.; a gross weight of 4,220 lb. and a payload of 780 lb.

Conventional practice is followed in the construction of the plane. Three fuel tanks, two in the wing having a combined capacity of 50 gal. and one below the floor having a capacity of 70 gal., are provided. An engine driven pump feeds the wing tanks from the main tank and an auxiliary hand pump also is provided. The oil capacity is 12 gal.

Instruments, equipment is complete and includes air speed indicator, tachometer, altimeter, light indicator,



The Stearman Coach powered by its 300 hp. H-975 Whirlwind engine.

rate of climb indicator, oil pressure gauge and clock. These instruments are grouped on an indirectly lighted control board. Landing lights, flares, navigation lights, generator and electric inertia starter are furnished. Side by side dual controls also are furnished.

The Stearman Coach is extensively fabric. The interior is provided with comfortably upholstered seats, heaters and other conveniences. A large baggage compartment is entered through doors in the structure

Golden Eagle "Chief"

THE Model 801 "Chief" is a refinement on the original Golden Eagle monoplane built by the E. O. Reese Co., Ingleside, Calif. It weighs 840 lb. and is powered with a 90 hp. LeRhond engine. Performance tests showed an actual climb of 1,200 ft. per min. with full load, top speed of 125-135 m.p.h., a landing speed of 30 to 35 m.p.h. and a ceiling of 15,000 ft.

A low drag covering of NACA type has been fitted around the LeRhond engine, out of the installation features being that there is no internal cooling forward of the firewall in the fuselage.

The wing of the "Chief" is built in two parts mounted to the fuselage by inverted V brace struts. Wing struts are of the felt type and are both attached to the main lower longeron fitting in order to prevent any stress to the passenger compartment. Right side landing gear is standard on the new model and has been especially well fitted to reduce resistance.

Aluminum bracket seats, accommodating the standard pedestal pack and dual instrument boards are fitted, as well as dual controls. Navigation lights are also standard and a streamlined hood is provided behind the pilot's seat.

Adverse use of the Prior type controlled by rod and torque tubes, elevators are controlled by push and pull tubes, rudder by conventional horn and wires. All surfaces have been increased in size for maneuverability.

A large baggage compartment is provided inside the fuselage and is near of the pilot's compartment. Bulk



A side profile view of the LeRhond powered Golden Eagle "Chief" showing NACA wing.

cockpits are upholstered in black leather. The wings, fuselage and tail surfaces are finished in gold, with nose covering, body struts, landing, wheels and struts in black.

Specifications of the Golden Eagle "Chief" as submitted to AVIATION are as follows:

Wing span	30 ft. 6 in.
Chord	5 ft. 6 in.
Length	20 ft. 6 in.
Height	7 ft. 6 in.
Landing gear trend	7 ft. 25 in.
Engine	Clark-V
Propeller	LeRhond 90 hp.
Engine—Wing	California—Wood
Weight of plane empty	840 lb.
Disposable load	560 lb.
Gross wt. loaded	1,400 lb.
Wing loading	85 lb. per sq. ft.
Power loading	15.5 lb. per hp.
Fuel capacity	40 gal.
Oil capacity	8 gal.
Cruising radius	900-1,000 mi.

"Air Boss" Biplane

INTERCHANGEABILITY of parts combined with conventional construction are the general characteristics of the new "Air Boss" biplane which is offered by the Southern Aircraft Corporation of Birmingham, Ala. The standard power plant of the Air Boss is the Curtiss ON-5 engine, but this craft is designed for other power plants in the same horsepower range.

The Air Boss has an upper wing span of 32 ft. 4½ in., a lower wing span of 30 ft. 9 in., a length of 30 ft. 3 in.



A side view of the ON-5 powered "Air Boss" biplane designed by Southern Aircraft Corp.

and a height of 9 ft. 5½ in. The high speed is 90 m.p.h. and cruising speed 110 m.p.h., while the landing speed is 30 m.p.h. In tests the plane was shown to have a rate of climb of 1,000 ft. in the first minute and a ceiling of 17,000 ft. The plane has a weight empty of 1,380 lb., a useful load of 850 lb. and a gross weight of 2,230 lb.

Chrome molybdenum steel tubing is used exclusively in the fuselage construction of the Air Boss, and wood is employed in the wing structure. Ribs are of plywood with spruce caps forming I beam sections and a strong plywood covering is used on all wing edges. Lower wings have wire railroading, direct action controls, enclosed flaps and Frane type ailerons. The wings are fitted for navigation lights. Double stream line wires are used in the external landing. Double drag wires are used in the internal bracing. Push-rod wings, control surfaces, landing gear and other major units are all of built construction of controls in the cockpit has been given careful attention and well designed windshields, affixed protection for the pilot and passenger. Bulk forward and horizontal stabilizer are adjustable in flight. The pilot's seat is fully adjustable. Double direct control and instruments as required by the Department of Commerce are provided. The rubber pedals are equipped with compensating tension springs. The quantities, according to the manufacturer, are as follows:

Length	20 ft. 3 in.
Upper wing span	32 ft. 4½ in.
Lower wing span	30 ft. 9 in.
Height	9 ft. 5½ in.
Chord—both wings	60 in.
Maximum speed	110 m.p.h.
Cruising speed	90 m.p.h.
Landing speed	30 m.p.h.
Ceiling	17,000 ft.
Rate of Climb	1,000 ft. in first minute
Gross weight	2,230 lb.
Useful load	850 lb.

FOREIGN ACTIVITIES



Program for Air Congress Announced

TURK BUAER (Istanbul)—Plans are making rapidly for the holding of the Fifth International Air Congress here September 1-4, 1939. The Royal Aero Club of the Netherlands, requested by the government to handle the organization details, has announced the program opens for discussion to be: Actual flight, meeting and lectures, legal questions, medical questions and aerial tourism.

The first section will discuss such topics as organization of air routes, staff, economic, radio communications, air law as relation to finance and co-operation with other means of transportation and meteorology. The second section will take up construction of planes, methods of propulsion, fuel, fuel and applied aerodynamics, instruments and apparatus for aerial navigation and the service as compared with other methods of aerial transport.

The legal section will deal with economic rights, administrative rights, aerial rights and private international rights. While the medical section will study physiology, hygiene and such questions as the employment of women as pilots, air sickness and methods of examination, etc. The last section will consider international aerial meeting and airlines. The discussion focuses, in operation of international flying clubs and national construction of facilities and pilots, safety of air traffic, inspection and construction of pilots and airports, goals for the preparation of air touring.

The first congress was organized and opened under the auspices of the French Government in 1921. The second was held in 1925 in London under the auspices of the British Government, the third in Brussels in 1929 under the auspices of the Belgian Government and the fourth in Rome in 1932.

Was \$1,200 for Glider Flight

DETROIT (Detroit)—Twelve over 60 mi. Robert Knudsen, Valparaiso, set out to have won a prize of \$1,200 for having set a distance mark in gliders. The take-off was made from Keweenaw and the flight consumed more than five hours.

Plan Ford Condor Fleet

WALKERVILLE (Ga.)—The Ford Motor Company has announced plans for the construction of 15-winged Condors, it is reported. It is expected the planes will have wide use.

Air Parade Closes Airport Drive

VANCOUVER (Vancouver)—Seven planes ending this city landed in an effort to entice to vote for the airport before which is to enter before the taxpayers' vote. The air parade was the climax of an intensive campaign to increase support in the establishment of an airport facilities, for which a vote of \$300,000 is asked.

To Show Secret Craft at Olympia

LONDON (London)—One of the deepest kept secrets of the British Air Ministry will be revealed to the public at the International Aero Exhibition to be held at Olympia, London, in July. This secret is a small airplane which has specially been constructed to fit into a submarine. For many years experiments have been made in order to perfect such a machine and to evolve a method of carrying it on to the submarine without greatly altering the construction of the craft.

The machine that will be shown at the exhibition is the outcome of some experiments and it is one of the most modern of the developments of warfare. Other machines which have been kept secret by the Air Ministry will also be shown, while side by side with these will be practically every type of modern civil machine. The exhibition will also show the air lines capable of meeting over twenty people.

Foreign News Briefs

Quebec and Eastern Aviation One of the airports of Canada has ordered three Fairchild 70's.

Dpt. Hermann Koellig is to be offered the presidency of the German League of Flying Clubs now being organized.

R. A. MacLean, who last year lost an eye in a crash following a stall, has resumed an air busier device and to enter the pilot of the approach of the stall. Two electrical controls are placed on a wing trim in connection with a red "top" speed indicator.

Capt. Alex Wex-Lin, Chinese pilot and his companion, Lieutenant Johnson of Denmark have completed their flight from England to China, started in March.

Some capital of Switzerland will open its new airport in June. It is expected the new airport will be used for flights over the mountains.

Five American Airways has established a line connecting Moscow, New York, via St. Louis. A mail route has been started between York

Encourage Private Flying in Litterie Show

ROME (Rome)—To encourage private aviation flying, national exhibitions will be held at the Littorio Airport near here, May 25-30, to honor the airports of the Littorio National Automobile Club, the National Private Association, and manufacturers of aeroplanes and accessories equipment, according to Assistant Commissioner D. F. Spence.

Private airplanes to have an exhibition include Italian manufacturers of passenger airplanes and all such accessories, motors, corporations and firms which are interested in taking an active part in the development of the aeronautical industry in Italy. Exhibitors will be classified in the following manner: (1) Transport planes with horsepower not greater than 100 horsepower of type, (2) aircraft engines of type, (3) aircraft engines accessories, (4) safety apparatus, such as parachutes and fire extinguishers, (5) flying accessories, such as goggles, helmets, oxygen mask, portable tanks, tires, wheels, compasses, (6) portable instruments, such as altimeters, barometers, (7) instruments, (8) navigators, (9) navigators, (10) commercial flying accessories.

Seta Scaphane Speed Record
BERLIN (Germany)—Attaining a speed of 171.292 m.p.h. in a scaphane, with a load of 102.32 lb. in aerial weight, Chief Pilot Stefan of the Reichs Air Corps, Berlin, established a new world record for this class. He bettered the previous record of 138.033 m.p.h. set by Louis S. W. Calhoun, U.S.N., in April 23, 1937, in a Waco Condor.

Air Section in Vancouver Show

VANCOUVER (Vancouver)—An air show section is to be a feature of the Canada Pacific Exhibition to be held in this city Aug. 7-17. Domestic Airways already has contracted for space.

Capt. Alex Wex-Lin, Chinese pilot and his companion, Lieutenant Johnson of Denmark have completed their flight from England to China, started in March.

The Duchess of Bedford, although 60 years old, is an air enthusiast and is planning to try for a new world record to land, using a Pinner, the Princess Xerox. She will share the control with Capt. C. D. Bernard.

The international congress on water aviation opened in Paris May 24 with delegates from 15 countries in attendance.

THE BUYER'S LOG BOOK



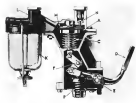
AC Fuel Pump

IN ORDER to insure a continuous flow of fuel to the carburetor, particularly during certain maneuvers, a fuel pump is needed on an aircraft engine. A design of this pump has been developed by the AC Spark Plug Co., Flint, Mich., and is now being used on the Hispano powered Englebert and other commercial airplanes.

The AC fuel pump is a diaphragm pumping pump, a self priming device. The pump is operated by a lever

moving parts. Under normal operating conditions the diaphragm stroke is only a few thousandths of an inch which insures that the life of the pump and its capacity will be far in excess of any engine requirements.

The AC fuel pump weighs 3 lb., requires no priming and does not affect engine carburetor at any speed. It has been tested in temperatures ranging from -30 to +100 deg. F. At cranking speed the pump will supply 5 cc. of fuel per engine revolution. With a 1 cc. movement of the diaphragm it pumps 10 cc. per stroke, or enough to fill 14 in. of 1/8-in. diameter tubing. This rate equals ranges from 75 to 100 per cent.



The AC Fuel Pump with a carburetor and fuel line showing carburetor connection.

"N" Series Altimeter and Tachometer

TWO new aircraft instruments were recently introduced by the Consolidated Instrument Company of America, Inc., 303 E. 47th St., New York, N. Y. These instruments are designated the type "N" altimeter and type "N" tachometer.

The type "N" tachometer is equipped with a helical gear drive to produce smoothness and constant in operation. Another feature in this instrument is the uniform scale over the entire dial. The scale is such that the pilot is instantly aware of an accurate reading of the slightest speed variation. The type "N" tachometer is mounted in non-corrosive gear and is designed to meet all Army and Navy specifications: 5 A.E. standard head and flexible shaft connections are employed. The weight of the instrument is 12 oz.

The Consolidated type "N" altimeter, which weighs 12 oz., is well balanced and has been designed to meet Army and Navy specifications. This



Photographs of the Type "N" Tachometer (left) and Altimeter (right).

altimeter is equipped with barometer setting scale to enable the pilot to correct his altimeter readings at points of varying atmospheric pressure. A knurled knob at provided for adjustment of the reading to the zero position. The scale is 25 in. diameter and uniformly graduated from 0 to 20,000 ft. The dial is exceptionally wide and read because of the widely spaced graduation marks and clear cut figures. Like the type "N" tachometer this instrument is also mounted in a non-corrosive case.



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PUT the Whittelsey Avian through its paces. Not with the conscious effort of a "show-off" but with the genuine ease of a born aviator; the famous light plane responds to every wish and whim of its pilot.

From the moment you give it the gun start it flares into a gentle three-point landing, propeller still, stick dead, the Avian gives a flying performance that is a happy combination of stability, ease-of-handling, speed, durability and safety.

It's the creation of genius. It must be. For more it first took to the air, more than six years ago, to write in the skies of the world a glorious history of achievement, many designers have attempted to duplicate the Avian. They have copied it less for form, single for style. Still, the Avian assumes the choice of the experienced pilot—as a ship in which to train the fledgling, as a ship to fly his own.

You can't take it off the front porch. But on light plane is quick to lift its nose into the air and leave the ground behind. By the same token, you can land the Avian in any pasture of decent size.

And from takeoff to landing the Avian will give you the most comfortable, satisfying flight.

Among the features that make the Avian the most versatile light plane today—on land, day and night—whether training or coasting—are:

SAFETY. With 5 the factor of safety the Avian is one of the most popular planes for sport and training. Every feature permits achievement in a total loaded weight of 1,000 pounds, annual flying at a weight of 1,000 pounds. The Avian, pilot, passenger and 50 pounds of baggage weigh 1,000 pounds.

3. Steel wings (Handley-Page) make a plane practically uncrushable. And statistics show that the accidents due to spin exceed in number those due to all other mechanical difficulties and human weakness. This safety feature also allows the landings of the Avian at slower speeds.

ECONOMY OF OPERATION. Fuel consumption is 10 miles per gallon and oil consumption 500 miles to the gallon.

EASE OF MAINTENANCE. Most working parts being fitted with lubricators, indicate the ease with which the Avian can be maintained. The engine is at comfortable height from the ground for purposes of adjustment. Engine cowl can be detached in a few moments.

The whole of the fuselage is separated from the power unit by a fire-proof bulkhead.

3. Comfort. The cockpit of pilot and passenger is roomier and more comfortable than usual. Occupants are protected by adequate windscreen. The baggage compartment behind the pilot's seat is large enough

to accommodate two full-sized suitcases, tools, spare tire, etc.

4. EASE OF HANDLING. One person can hold or spread the wings unassisted. When wings are folded one person can easily lift the tail and maneuver the machine without effort. The wide track of the undercarriage and the movable tail make turning easy.

When the wings are folded the Avian occupies a space only 5½ feet in width (5-1½ feet width when wings are spread). It can be garaged in any ordinary shed.

For carrying purposes the Avian has a built-in cover. For sport flying the covered engine in the front cockpit can be removed and the rubber bar disconnected.

Records it holds.—First solo flight England to Australia. . . . Fastest flight ever made in a light plane. . . . Longest solo flight ever made. . . . Fastest time England to India. . . . First non-stop flight, London to Tokyo.

Write for information. If you are interested in the Whittelsey Avian as a purchase or if you plan the conduct of a training school, write to: We will gladly forward complete and detailed information concerning this light training and sport plane. Its price is \$2,995. Specify if F. O. B. Bridgeport, Conn. Whittelsey Mfg. Company, Dept. D 1, General Office and Plant, Bridgeport, Conn.



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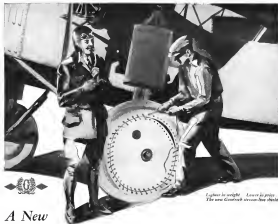
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WITH the announcement of the new Goodrich fabric windshield Goodrich makes possible lower air mile cost. Heretofore the Goodrich Stream-line Shield could be purchased in rubberized fabric only.

Now the same patented features may be had in the new fabric shield—identical save in materials—at a one-dollar price reduction!

The new shield not only combines all the exclusive wind drag reducing features of the Goodrich rubberized shield, but it also reduces

air weight and cost of the stream-line shield.

It is made of No. 47 friction fabric with reinforced edges, streamlined and laced to the skin of a Goodrich Airplane tire.

Already one leading plane manufacturer has standardized on the new Goodrich Fabric Stream-line Shield. Other inquiries are invited.

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Normal Cruising Range 675 miles
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Blazing the trail of a new airway into the land of the northern lights a Lockheed Seaplane on April 15 completed the first Seattle to Alaska non-stop flight. The "Junco," one of a fleet of Lockheed Wasp-Vegas operated by Alaska-Washington Airways Company, Seattle, and piloted by Ansel Eckman, shattered all previous conceptions of commercial seaplane performance by covering the 1080 land state mile with passengers at an average speed of better than two miles per minute!

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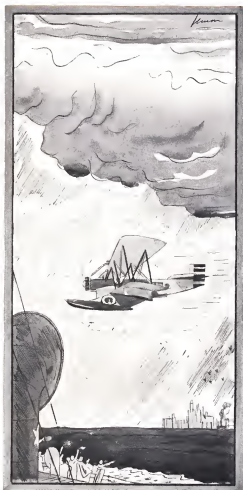


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